

As an example of the 'gardenesque' style, Adelaide Botanic Garden in Schomburgk's era was remarkable and contrary to the *Catalogue* statement, p. 19, perfectly good photographic prints in the Archives of that institution show what the Garden looked like in the 1870's. On the same page, James Shaw's painting dated 1865, for all its historical interest, hardly shows the extent of "Schomburgk's endeavour" as Schomburgk was only appointed in that year!

Similarly no mention is made of the not unattractive glasshouses at Adelaide prior to the erection of the still extant Tropical House, the date of opening of which is in error, 1877 not 1874. The Adelaide Victoria House was opened in 1868 not 1860, and the Museum of Economic Botany with its memorable stencilled ceiling in 1881 not 1880. The year of establishment of the Adelaide Botanic Garden was 1855, as stated on p. 19, not 1862 as stated on p. 24.

On p. 29 *Melia azedarach* var. *australasica*, not "*australiasia*" as stated, was not the only deciduous tree in Australia even excluding monsoonal species: a few others include *Nothofagus gunnii* from Tasmania. On the same page *Macleaya* is not a variety of *Bocconia*: both are accepted as different genera in the Papaveraceae, although *B. cordata* is a nomenclatural synonym for *M. cordata*.

William Robinson, p. 62, was not born in England, but in Ireland where his first job was as garden-boy to the Vicar of Stradbally, Sir Hunt-Jackson Walsh. England was where Robinson made his fortune and became famous together with Gertrude Jekyll, for advocacy of the well orchestrated wild-garden and herbaceous border. No mention is made of Robinson's "The English Flower Garden" (1883) which I suspect influenced Australian pleasure gardens at the turn of the century, as had the Loudons earlier in the nineteenth century. Robinsonian garden elements are still evident today.

Tanner, H. & Stringer, R. 1979. 'Converting the Wilderness: The Art of Gardening in Colonial Australia', pp. 95, monochrome endpapers, coloured cover, 12 coloured plates, 138 monochrome illustrations. (Australian Gallery Directors Council, Sydney.) Paper-bound \$4.00 (available from exhibitions in Brisbane, October 1979: Ballarat, November-December 1979: Sydney, January 1980: Melbourne, February 1980: Launceston, March 1980: Hobart, April-May 1980: Adelaide, June 1980 or A.G.D.C., P.O. Box 369, Royal Exchange, Sydney, 2000).

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Australian native plants

Wrigley, J.W. & Fagg, M., 'Australian Native Plants', 1979, Collins.

During the past few years a number of books have appeared concerning the cultivation and propagation of Australian plants. These have ranged from a quasi-ecological approach to the more empirical listing of species and evidence concerning their requirements under cultivation.

A bench mark has now been established by the appearance of the long awaited volume by John Wrigley entitled 'Australian Native Plants'. His writings have been supported by a magnificent series of coloured plates by Murray Fagg. Over 2500 species are described together with more than 140 colour photos and 300 black and white plates and line drawings.

Chapter headings include "Why Native Plants?", "Collection of Material" - which rightly draws attention to the importance of correct techniques - "Propagation" (with excellent drawings of the life cycle of the fern), "Landscape", "Pests and diseases" and "Plant management". In addition the bookmark provided explains the symbols used in descriptions, which is a novel and useful feature.

Then follows nine chapters covering all the information the home and professional gardener wants on the utilisation of native plants. The descriptions are first class, detailed and clear, with notes on the propagation and the uses of the particular species. It is pleasing to see major chapters devoted to water and container plants, two groups of native plants almost neglected by most writers.

Considerable care has been taken over the nomenclature (although with the numerous revisions by botanists at present taking place it is virtually impossible to be totally up to date). This is borne out on at least two occasions, namely *Acacia osswaldii* and *Pittosporum phillyraeoides*. Neither spellings are generally accepted and in spite of the derivation of the last name the spelling is different from that recorded.

The text is clearly set out; no obvious errors were noted, although the lack of a title under some of the black and white photos within the text could be confusing and a few of these lack definition (pp. 86, 361, 388, 389). Overall the black and white photos are of poor quality which contrast markedly with the colour. It is a pity that pot-grown specimens had to be photographed; these generally are of poor quality. However, there are some very good black and white illustrations, e.g. pp. 90, 138 and 233. The photograph of *Araucaria* on page 309 appears to be out of vertical.

Under the planting notes on page 49 no mention is made of possible later planting in frost affected areas, i.e. planting in spring, although elsewhere reference is made to frost protection.

It is surprising that very few of the lower rainfall species of *Eucalyptus* are listed; an obvious omission is *Eucalyptus pyriformis*. There are numerous others of the "gold field mallee group" which are traditionally planted in South Australia and which have been omitted. *E. 'Torwood'* is also widely grown in the arid parts; the greatest collection to be seen is probably at Leigh Creek and Woomera. Also only one species of *Xanthorrhoea* is mentioned; a species which can either lack or have a short trunk, and yet there are numerous other species cultivated all of which always have a trunk.

It is pleasing to note that cultivars have been thoroughly dealt with and undoubtedly these will cause some confusion to growers of Australian plants. It is a pity that there is a restricted use of common names, especially as these have tended to become standard over the past decade or so; they are helpful to gardeners.

Overall the book will remain for many years to come as the most important handbook and all growers of Australian plants will be grateful to John Wrigley for making available the results of his numerous researches; to quote one example, the use of *Westringia* stock for prostantheras which allow these to be grown in *Phytophthora cinnamomi* affected soils. It is to be hoped that all will use this information to improve their collections of native plants and so increase the pleasure they derive from growing them.

Wrigley, John W. & Fagg, Murray. 1979. 'Australian Native Plants', pp. 222, 25 pp. index, 140 colour plates and 300 black and white plates and line drawings. (Published by Collins, Sydney.) Hard-bound \$30.00.

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